

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07384 111521Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 FBIE-00 INSE-00 /077 W
-----082421 111526Z /47

P 111505Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0273
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07384

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, CSCE, PINS, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY

REF: (A) MOSCOW A-3, (B) MOSCOW 1884, (C) MOSCOW 645,
(D) 77 MOSCOW 14975

1. SUMMARY: MS. Z.K. DZEBOYEVA AND ANDREI SAKHAROV
VISITED EMBASSY ON APRIL 11 TO DISCUSS THE GROWING PROB-
LEMS THAT THE SOVIET PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY HAS ENCOUNTERED.
THEY NOTED THAT DESPITE STEPPED-UP HARASSMENT, THEIR
INTEREST IN EMIGRATING FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO THE WEST
IS CONTINUING, AND THAT IN MS. DZEBOYEVA'S WORDS,
"PENTECOSTAL EMIGRATION IN 1978 IS LIKE JEWISH EMIGRA-
TION IN 1968." END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 10, MS. DZEBOYEVA CALLED CONSOFF TO ARRANGE
APPOINTMENT TO HAVE SEVERAL VYZOVS EXTENDED BY THE EMBASSY.
SHE ASKED, AS SHE HAS IN THE PAST, FOR CONSULAR OFFICER
TO MEET HER ON SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. CONSOFF MET
MS. DZEBOYEVA WITH ANDREI SAKHAROV IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AT
1030 A.M., APRIL 11. SAKHAROV STATED THAT MS. DZEBOYEVA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07384 111521Z

HAD ASKED HIM TO ACCOMPANY HER SOLELY BECAUSE OF RECENT
ARRESTS OF PENTECOSTALS NEAR THE EMBASSY (REFTELS B AND C).

3. MS. DZEBOYEVA GAVE CONSOFF 39 VYZOVS (264 NAMES) FROM
THE TOLSTOI FOUNDATION TO SOVIET CITIZENS RESIDING IN
NAKHODKA, VLADIVOSTOK AND KRASNOYARSKII KRAI FOR EXTENSION.
SHE STATED THAT WHEN PENTECOSTALS HAD PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT

TO BRING VYZOVS TO THE EMBASSY FOR EXTENSION OR CORRECTION, THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND FORCED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST.

4. MS. DZEBOYEVA ASKED CONSOFF TO TRANSMIT REQUESTS FOR VYZOVS TO THE TOLSTOI FOUNDATION, AS WELL AS PERSONAL LETTERS FROM PENTECOSTALS TO THEIR SPONSORS IN THE US. CONSOFF STATED THAT HE WAS PROHIBITED FROM SENDING PRIVATE LETTERS, BUT THAT HE COULD SEND LETTERS AND PETITIONS. CONSOFF STATED THAT HE WAS PROHIBITED FROM SENDING PRIVATE LETTERS, BUT THAT HE COULD SEND LETTERS AND PETITIONS REQUESTING OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR FORWARDING TO THE APPROPRIATE VOLUNTARY AGENCY. MS. DZEBOYEVA THEN GAVE CONSOFF SEVERAL PETITIONS FOR FORWARDING.

5. SOVIET HARASSMENT: BOTH SAKHAROV AND DZEBOYEVA DISCUSSED RECENT SOVIET HARASSMENT OF PENTECOSTALS. IN THE BALTIC STATES, THE PENTECOSTALS HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR PHONES. THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED VYZOVS IN THE MAIL HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SURRENDER THEM TO THE OVIR. IN KRASNOYARSKII KRAI AND THE PRIMORSKII KRAI, MANY PENTECOSTALS ARE LIVING UNDER VIRTUAL HOUSE ARREST. THEIR MAIL WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF, AND THEY HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN TO CONTACT ANY WESTERN EMBASSY. DESPITE THIS FRUSTRATION, DZEBOYEVA STATED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07384 111521Z

THEY REMAIN STEADFAST IN THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE, AND ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR EVENTUAL SUCCESS IN EMIGRATING FROM THE USSR.

6. COMMENT: SAKHAROV TOOK ALMOST NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION, EXCEPT TO EXPRESS CONCERN REGARDING THE HARASSMENT THAT THE PENTECOSTALS ARE SUFFERING. DZEBOYEVA WAS INTERESTED IN DETERMINING TO WHAT EXTENT THE WESTERN WORLD WAS AWARE OF THE SUFFERING OF THE PENTECOSTALS. SHE HAS PREVIOUSLY TALKED WITH L.A. TIMES CORRESPONDENT, DAN FISHER. SHE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT CONSOFF'S REMARKS, PER PARA 4 ABOVE, ON THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS GROUPS, EXIT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW07384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780155-0791
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780470/aaaachsm.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a9df0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW A-3, 78 MOSCOW 1884, 78 MOSCOW 645, 77 MOSCOW 14975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3010427
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY
TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, PINS, UR, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a9df0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014